

ETERNAL REWARDS

A MINISTRY UPDATE FROM GRACE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



THE Homecoming

• CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF GRACE •



FALL EDITION 2022

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Overcoming Impossibilities
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ON THE COVER:

Dr. Dave Anderson (Founder and President) and Dr. Mark Rae (Vice President for Community Development) journeyed with our Homecoming guests through the beginning, current, and future milestones of Grace School of Theology

Listen to the Provost, Dr. Mark Haywood, share an inspiring message from The Homecoming celebration



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Celebrating 20 Years of Grace

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to your generous prayers and support, Grace School of Theology has seen a lot of milestones in 2022:

- Highest enrollment ever with officially 709 students who took classes in the Spring 2022 semester
- 368 Grace Alumni, as of the May 2022 graduation, with degrees from Grace School of Theology (and several with multiple degrees)
- Grace students from 28 states and 41 countries based on Spring 2022
 - Countries in 2022 where we didn't have students in Spring 2021 included Burundi, Germany, England, Ireland, Qatar, Senegal, Tajikistan, and the United Arab Emirates
 - After the United States (193 students), our next 5 largest countries for enrollment are currently Cuba (122), the Philippines (93), Brazil (73), Korea (39), and Nepal (38)
 - Our largest class ever, in Summer 2022, with 49 students, for the Introduction to Black Church Studies with Dr. Thomas Beavers and Dr. John Adolph (more on page 6)
- More than 100 devotional plans published on YouVersion's Bible App with 1.8 million+ subscriptions and growing daily
- The launch of Grace On Demand with 1,849 personal spiritual growth students using over 180 hours of trusted, on-demand, biblically-based training from the Grace Center for Spiritual Development




But also, take a look at the bottom of our official seminary seal. Throughout 2022, we have been celebrating 20 years of being a seminary. Twenty years (plus some) of the faithful prayers and support of people like you. Twenty years, all to God's glory, of striving to develop spiritual leaders in every nation who can teach others about the love of Christ, a love that cannot be earned and cannot be lost.

It's simple really. Grace remains focused on fulfilling God's Word. It's not surprising that while celebrating 20 years in 2022 that we look to 2 Timothy 2, verses 1-2, as Paul encourages his young disciple:

"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also."

Your investment in Grace School of Theology will have generations of impact because our focus is to develop leaders who can teach others about the love of Christ—or entrust the teachings of Christ to faithful people who will be able to teach others also.

In Christ,


David R. Anderson, Ph.D.
Founder and President
Grace School of Theology



Better Together

STUDENT APPRECIATION

Over the past 10 years, the Grace School of Theology student roster is now **41 countries** and **8 languages** has grown by **1,212%—from 54 to 709 students!** Even with our growing number in the last two decades since Grace's inception, we are committed to valuing and getting to know each and every one of our students.

In the midst of life's highs and lows, we desire our students to remember that they are not alone. Their Grace family is here for them. With every peak and valley they go through in life, with every trial and victory they face in these challenging times, we remain steadfast in supporting and lifting them up through community and equipping in God's Word.

Annually, we dedicate a time to connect, fellowship, and encourage and strengthen one another no matter how far apart we are in the world through the Student Appreciation Week. We are truly better together as students, professors, and Grace leaders take part in the preparation to make this celebration worthwhile!

Grace Gems

Be encouraged by grace-filled messages from our leaders! Scan the QR Code to view the playlist.



We are Better Together!



Grace Highlights

Listen to testimonies from our students on how Grace has helped them in various aspects of their lives. Scan the QR Code to view the playlist.



Brad and Misty Rehl (BABS, USA)

"The Bible is called the 'Living Word' and learning how to use proper Hermeneutics with a Free Grace Theology lens has opened our eyes to view Scripture in a new way every time we read it."

David Rossotto (BABS, Argentina)

"Everything that they told me about Grace is true—Grace is an excellent seminary."

Andreas Neudecker (MABS, Germany)

"It was a pleasure to go back in history and connect with professors and other students from all around the world throughout this experience. It's quite wonderful to be able to study the Bible in this manner."

Myra Jalique (MABS, Philippines)

"The most excellent part is that my studies allow me to come to know God better. I get to love Him more deeply and adore Him more passionately."

LISTEN AND READ MORE STUDENT STORIES HERE:

gsot.edu/stories or scan the QR Code



Overcoming Impossibilities in Africa

A landlocked and densely populated country in East Africa, Burundi is officially one of the world's poorest countries. Burundi went through a war and a dictatorial president that caused a lot of oppression, poverty, and rebellion. It is not uncommon to see civil unrest, riots, and midnight searches of homes for weapons.

Biblical knowledge and resources are scarce—none are in Kirundi and almost none in French. Burundians speak Kirundi, French, and Swahili, so English is a fourth language and takes a great deal of effort to learn. Many pastors can hardly read since few finish public school. So English resources are of little help, thus the great need for well-trained Burundians to teach them the Bible in their language.

The grace gospel is almost non-existent. **Anicet Ndikuryo**, Grace School of Theology's first Burundian student, shares that it is as if they are living under the Old Testament, with everyone trying to work his or her way to heaven.

After years of serving as a pastor, Anicet came across **Ephesians 2:8–9**. He was amazed how the Bible clearly states that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone. Although he preached this message of free grace in his Christian church, leaders and congregants considered him a heretic as they believed in the necessity of works.

This prompted Anicet to leave the church and establish **Grace Bible Church in Burundi**. He was determined to create a space where he can teach what the Bible says as truth. He started by having intimate Bible studies every Friday until they grew in number, requiring him to rent a place in order to fit all the members. The church eventually grew to have sixty local branches around Africa, with established churches in fifteen out of eighteen provinces in Burundi.

With his increased responsibility and scope, Anicet knew that he needed more formal training. While searching for resources online, he came across Dr. Charlie Bing and **GraceLife Ministries**. Anicet eventually met Dr. Bing at a conference in Ghana where they were able to start a partnership to hold an annual conference to train pastors.



GraceLife Institute (GLI) conducted seven years of training and graduated several groups of pastors from their four-year program. GLI would pay for all the pastors' accommodations and meals for a week. Churches do not pay their pastors, so pastors have to work, many in farming. Churches are small and usually meet in public schools or rented facilities. Dr. Bing and his team have helped a few churches build simple buildings of their own.

Anicet has planted 60 branches of **Grace Bible Church**, but he feels inadequate to teach the pastors. As GLI did not offer a graduate program, Dr. Bing encouraged the top-performing graduates to enroll in Grace School of Theology for more in-depth training. These graduates included Anicet and **Diomedé Nkunuzimana**.

Alongside the **Grace English Language Program (GELP)** at Grace School of Theology, Anicet and Diomedé are both taking up their Master of Divinity degrees. Through class discussion boards and student discipleship groups, they are grateful to have the opportunity to refine their English proficiency and meet people coming from different backgrounds yet are united in Christ.

Grace School of Theology's cloud-based learning system makes it easy for its students to join online classes live or watch and rewatch the recordings anytime. With Burundi's inaccessible and unstable internet connection and lack of computer resources, Anicet, Diomedé, and other aspiring students find it challenging to access their courses despite them being online. Nevertheless, they persevere because of their thirst for learning and equipping. Textbooks, whether print or digital, are also difficult to procure. Dr. Bing personally helps source digital copies of their textbooks so that these Grace students can successfully fulfill their academic requirements and maximize their learning experience.

Diomedé shares how he is already applying his learnings from Grace to the Home Cell ministry of his church. The **Hermeneutics** course allowed him to ground his teaching in the Bible as he was exposed to once unfamiliar study tools that now allow him to understand and preach from the Bible at a deeper, contextual level.

Anicet also adds that, "The more you **study**, the more **light** is shed on the Scriptures, the more you have the **confirmation** of what you believe in, and the more **comfortable** you become in sharing your beliefs and the truths from the Bible.



I can see the difference when my classmates or I preach. I notice how deep we grow and improve as we search the Word before we preach." He is hopeful that he will continue to be properly equipped through Grace's education to train pastors across Africa and produce next-generation leaders.

Over the past 20 years, we have seen how Grace School of Theology students are making generations of impact right where they live, work, and serve. With Grace, spiritual leaders worldwide can fulfill their ministry dreams and responsibilities while simultaneously be equipped through biblically-sound and accessible degree programs. This is the Grace difference we pursue to be the experience of each of our current and potential students.



"I love the way Grace teaches because the professors instruct us how to do the activities [and use the tools] well. We are given assignments so that we apply them independently. Because of this, I have learned to study the Word of God deeply and biblically."

– **DIOMEDE NKUNZIMANA**



"All is possible with Him. We are just following where God leads us, and we'll continue to do that. Our dream is to have our Bible School locally where we can train local leaders and partner with other churches. We need to stand and defend the gospel of grace in Burundi."

– **ANICET NDIKURYO**

BLACK CHURCH STUDIES

BIBLICALLY ACCURATE, CULTURALLY RELEVANT

In our rapidly changing culture, church pastors and leaders have a unique opportunity to be a voice of hope, healing, justice, wisdom, redemption, and reconciliation to the broader church at large.

Grace School of Theology's **Black Church Studies Program** aims to **educate everyone, eradicate biblical illiteracy, and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of the Black Church**. So regardless of your race, culture, or background, there is something for you to learn from this program.

We invite you into this safe space to have honest dialogues and thought-provoking discussions without the fear of judgment. Everyone is here to learn and to grow in oneness with God and each other.

"The Black Church in America stands poised to lead in recovering the morality of America in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By decrying the purposeful moral destruction of our biblical standards in society, the Black Church—and perhaps only the Black Church—can emotionally and prophetically call America back to the vision of its founding fathers in honoring our Lord God."

Dr. Ken Wilson, Professor of Systematic Theology and Church History

"If there is one word I could use to describe the Black Church Studies, it is 'amazing'... Dr. Beavers was an awesome and knowledgeable instructor. It was so addictive that I wasn't going to just take another course, but instead, I signed up for two more."

Fannie Jones, Student

**LEARN MORE AND
APPLY TODAY BY VISITING:**
gsot.edu/programs/bcs or scan the
QR Code



Below : Dr. Beavers and Dr. Adolph teaching the flagship course of the program, the Introduction to Black Church Studies



NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Thomas Beavers is the servant leader of New Rising Star Church (also known as THE STAR & #TEAMSTAR) and leads several efforts that impact not only the church but also the community at large, which include but are not limited to: dynamic worship and discipleship, education, financial literacy, workforce development, housing, and recreation. His goal is twofold: to preach the gospel for the purpose of enlarging heaven and to develop people in the community so that they may have access to a better quality of life on earth and in the ages to come.

Dr. John R. Adolph is a preacher extraordinaire and one of the great communicators of modern-day preaching. Additionally, he is the Senior Pastor of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont, Texas, where under his leadership the church has grown from fifty-seven members to over five thousand. Dr. Adolph fosters our commitment to perpetuate biblical accuracy and cultural relevance.





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Trial By Fire Series	Discipleship	Systematic Theology
Servant Leadership	BASIC Christian Life	Easy Peasy Biblical Greek
Bible in 90 Minutes	BASIC Ministry	<i>More courses coming soon!</i>

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SAVING + GRACE with CARMEN PATE



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The **Saving Grace Podcast** is a ministry brought to you by Grace School of Theology, a seminary to the world committed to the truth of Scripture and life application through the lens of grace. Join conversations on theological concepts and difficult questions with Grace School of Theology and special guest experts.

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Visit this page or scan the QR Code to learn more
gsot.edu/center/savinggrace



OUR LATEST EPISODES

Episode 165 and 166: When God Breaks Your Heart 1 & 2

Guest Speaker: Ed Underwood | Pastor, Author, Shepherd of Shepherds

Whenever we go through trials is when it seems God is letting us down. But know that God gives us grace to overcome! Learn to keep trusting God amid faith-shattering circumstances in this mini-series.

Episode 168 and 169: A Tale of Three Ships: Setting Sail for Your Extraordinary Dream

Guest Speaker: Dwight Edwards | Pastor-at-Large, Author

While all of us will most likely spend some time on the three types of ships, our goal should be to choose the ship where we can find the most significance in life, fulfilling the extraordinary calling God has for each of us. How do we choose the right ship?

Episode 171: Your View of the Millennial Kingdom Matters

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dave Anderson | Founder and President

Your view of the Millennial Kingdom is a gospel issue. In this episode, we explain how this affects you by helping you better understand this Millennium, its purpose, and the judgments involved.



Pathways for Accelerating Christian Education (PACE) Academy

The **Grace School of Theology** team conducted a series of roundtable discussions with ordained pastoral leaders and congregational lay ministers around the United States. By listening to their educational challenges and opportunities, our team was able to explore the emerging needs and hopes for the future.

This experience led to the inception of **PACE — Pathways for Accelerating Christian Education**.

The **PACE Academy** programming will give future leaders:



Compressed but academically rigorous **competency-based learning experiences** that incorporate **practical application training**



Pathways to **accredited degree programs**



Exposure to the depth and richness of traditional **theological training**

PACE is modeled on proven pedagogical strategies and current trends in the higher education community and the corporate marketplace. The PACE team is creating pathways to alternative credentialing so that **pastors, lay ministers**, and especially the **upcoming generation of church leaders** can be certified at an efficient and expedited rate compared to pursuing a full seminary degree. The micro-credentials obtained through PACE can be stacked to earn badges and endorsements that can then be further stacked to earn certificates.



Badges



Endorsements



Certificates



Wilbert C. Baker, DMin

Program Director, **PACE Academy**
Pastor and Founder,
Lakeland Missionary Baptist Church

Dr. Wilbert Baker Joins the Grace Team

To help develop and offer the type of advanced practical theological education that the PACE Academy will be offering, Grace School of Theology knew it needed a seasoned practitioner who is well-versed in church leadership development and has a solid grounding in the seminary side of academia.

As part of our **Celebrating 20 Years of Grace** milestones, Grace is blessed to share that Dr. Wilbert C. Baker has joined our team as the Director of the PACE Academy.

"PACE is an answered prayer! Providing practical ministry skills balanced with advanced theological education is what has been missing for the majority of church leaders who need training," explains Dr. Baker. "PACE will reduce the time necessary to gain mastery of skill sets today's church leaders need to do intelligent and effective ministry in contemporary ministry contexts."

Dr. Baker's credentials include a mix of formal academic degrees and practical certificate-type credentialing from a variety of theological and Bible institutions and programs. He has been a pastor for 30+ years and currently serves as the Founder and Pastor of Lakeland Missionary Baptist Church in Humble, Texas, and is very active in leadership and faculty for several church associations and convention congresses (educational and training extensions). He also has 20 years of corporate management experience and a business administration degree. We are excited to see how Dr. Baker will lead the PACE team in equipping current and future church leaders across the world for God's glory.

If you have questions or are interested in joining the Pastor's Council, email us at pace@gsot.edu.